Policy of Non-alignment

4545. SHRI EM. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is pursuing the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's policy of 'Non-aligned countries unity' and Smt. Indira Gandhi's Policy of economic cooperation of Non-aligned countries, further extended by Shri Rajiv Gandhi's shared vision of 21st century for NAM as official policy; and

(b) if so, whether it would be extended in the matter of multilateral trade talks in WTO lead by India as one of the fast developing nation among the underdeveloped and least developed countries of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, India is a founder member of the Non Aligned Movement and believes in the continuning relevance of its basic priniciples. In NAM meetings, India has also been emphasizing the need for revitalization of NAM thorugh a contemporary and forward-looking approach.

(b) India is fully engaged with other developing countries in the ongoing Doha round of WTO negotiations. In this context, a Ministerial Meeting of the G-20, a grouping of developing countries, was held in New Delhi from March 18-19, 2005. The meeting reaffirmed the Group's solidarity and cohesiveness.

Hostage policy

4546. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are working out a policy on hostages on the lines of Us-lsrael policy in this regrard;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with main features of the policy; and

(c) by when the policy is likely to be finalized and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) It is the policy of the Government of India not to compromise with terrorist groups or elements. However, while adhering to this principle, the objective of the Government is to ensure the safety and well-being of all its citizens, whether in India or abroad. In case of hostage-taking, Government makes all efforts possible to secure the early and safe release of its nationals. In order to deal with

hostage situations, a Crisis Management Group is set up immediately which is tasked with the constant monitoring and handling of the situation in close consultation with concerned agencies, our diplomatic missions abroad and with foreign governments. The Cabinet Secretary also holds a parallel set of inter-ministerial meetings, as required, to take appropriate decision. The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs may also meet, as necessary, to review the situation and take appropriate decisions. This mechanism remains in force until the crisis ends. It needs to be pointed out that no two hostage situations are entirely similar and different responses may be required depending upon specific circumstances to reach the objectives of Government policy.

Traditional Digital Knowledge Library

4547. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Traditional Digital Knowledge Library is part of activity/ objective of SAARC Documentation Centre, New Delhi;

(b) if so, date of initiation and reason for initiating this activity;

(c) whether above activity would adversely effect patent right of traditional knowledge of member countries and National Interest, will result in patent piracy;

(d) whether a detailed Committee consisting of legal and other experts would be constituted before further initiating above project;

(e) whether SAARC Documentation Centre, New Delhi has deviated from original objective of Centre; and

(f) whether a detailed inquiry be initiated on activities of above Centre for last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) SAARC documentation Centre (SDC), New Delhi is concerned with the Documentation activities of the region, which include modern science and traditional knowledge. SDC conducted a Workshop on Establishment of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library for SAARC Member Countries in New Delhi on 27-28th December, 2004, which recommended, *Inter alia,* a framework for creation